

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204

August 18, 2006

The Honourable Laurel C. Broten  
Minister of the Environment  
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

Dear Minister Broten,

It was a pleasure to speak with you recently to discuss our mutual interest in stopping the shipment of municipal solid waste from the Province of Ontario into the State of Michigan.

As you know, the United States Senate recently passed an amendment I authored to impose a customs inspection fee upon all trucks transporting municipal solid waste from Canada to Michigan. Some estimates show that this fee could end up being approximately \$420 per truck. It is designed to make it unprofitable and basically stop trash haulers from transporting Canadian waste to Michigan.

I was pleased that the passage of my amendment and Senator Carl Levin's amendment, led your staff to contact me about finding a permanent solution to the problem of Canadian waste coming into Michigan. My staff has informed me that preliminary meetings have been productive, and I have directed them to continue to work with your representatives to come up with an agreement for an immediate cut in waste shipments to Michigan and a complete phase out of all shipments as rapidly as possible.

In return for phasing out all Ontario municipal trash shipments, I will work with Senator Levin to put a hold on these legislative actions, as long as the final agreement is fully and completely implemented.

It is critical that we move forward expeditiously, since the legislation that includes the inspection fees may be finalized in September. My staff and I will be available throughout August to bring these discussions to a conclusion.

As you know, Michigan and Canada are great neighbors and we have enjoyed a prosperous economic and cultural relationship for many years. Unfortunately, due to the shipments of waste into Michigan, this relationship has been strained for the last several years.

However, I hope that our negotiations will once and for all stop Canadian waste from coming into Michigan and return our focus to other mutual challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Stabenow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debbie" and last name "Stabenow" clearly legible.

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator